



STAFF REPORT

BELMONT-SAN CARLOS FIRE DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE TO THE BELMONT FIRE PROTECTION

Honorable President and Board Members:

Summary

The Fire Chief is scheduled each quarter to update the Board of Directors of the Belmont Fire Protection District and the City Council of the City of San Carlos of activities and accomplishments of the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department.

Background/Discussion

Per the JPA agreement, the Fire Chief is to update the Belmont Fire Protection District Board of Directors as to the activities and issues in the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department. Therefore, attached is a list of accomplishments and activities within the Department over the past quarter.

Fiscal Impact

1. No Fiscal Impact.

Public Contact

1. Posting of City Council agenda.

Recommendation

1. Information only

Alternatives

1. Take No Action.

Attachments

1. Activities and Accomplishments of the Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Fry
Fire Chief

Thomas Fil
Acting District Manager

Quarterly update of activities and accomplishments of Belmont-San Carlos Fire Dept.
April 2010

1. We have received a FEMA grant – We applied for a joint grant through AFG – (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) with Redwood City Fire, Menlo Park Fire, Woodside Fire and Belmont-San Carlos Fire for upgrading of our mobile radio infrastructure. As you recall we are required by the FCC to become compliant with Narrow Banding of our frequencies by the end of 2012, this requires us to replace all of our existing analog radios with digital capable radios to be narrow band capable (a large percentage of our frequency bandwidth was sold to cable TV companies for additional TV/cable channels). The grant amount received in total was \$176,000. The department share of the grant is \$47,000 with a \$9,000 matching share from the department. This grant will allow us to replace all of the mobile radios in all of our vehicles. The \$9,000 matching portion has been budgeted. Chief Gaffney was the primary representative for the department on this project. Additionally we were awarded recently two more grants – One for a Ladder Truck – the award was for \$750,000 with a matching portion of \$150,000. We then went back to FEMA and asked that the sales tax be added to the grant award, it was studied and approved – we received an additional \$73,000 for sales tax. Then on April 9, 2010 we received notification of an award for an additional \$122,000 for portable radios. This will be applied towards next year's budget in which we will be able to complete the mandated radio requirements as stated above. To date we have received over \$1.7 million in grant funding from the federal government
2. Congratulations are in order for Captain Mike Miller, Captain Steve Whitmarsh and Firefighter/Paramedic Casey Engler were selected as the Peninsula Lions Club Firefighter's of the Year and each received an award for Heroism for their efforts in a plane crash last year at the end of the San Carlos Airport in the slough.
3. The five new firefighters that were brought on board January 18, 2010 that will be in the fire academy for 16 weeks is coming to an end. Graduation for them is slated for Friday May 7, 2010 at the College of San Mateo Theater. Our individuals are amongst the top of the class.
4. As you are all aware, on April 13, 2010 the City Clerk received a notice of request for dissolution of the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department. This starts the clock on an 18 month process to dissolve the agency. Certain members of the department have begun testing out for firefighter/paramedic.
5. On April 11, 2010 at 0003 am our crews along with some from Redwood City, San Mateo and Foster City responded to a 2nd Alarm working structure fire at Tanager Lane in Redwood Shores. Crews arrived and found the garage well involved in fire extending to the 2nd story. Our crews arrived on scene in less than 4 minutes (Initial Crew), quickly extinguished the fire and contained the fire to the structure of origin. E-14 took a line to the second story to keep the fire from spreading to the attic. T-13 split the crew, inside Team and outside Team. The outside Team put the aerial ladder to the roof and performed vertical ventilation. The inside team performed a primary search of the structure. E-15 arrived next and was assigned to the Out Team. E-9 was assigned to back up E-14. E-16 was

assigned to RIC. Battalion 3 arrived and was assigned to recon the scene and later was assigned to Division "A". Once all units arrived on the first alarm assignment, IC called for a second alarm. The next Battalion Chief (B/C 6) was assigned to Division 2. The next Battalion Chief (B/C 5) was assigned to Safety and relieved B/C 3 as Division "A". The IC used all resources on the second alarm assignment except for E-23 who remained in staging. The fire was under control in 28 minutes upon first arriving units on scene. The owner of the house with his wife and two kids escape the house and went to the neighbor's house for refuge. The fire was contained to the garage and the two bedrooms above the garage. There was a small portion of the attic that caught fire but was extinguished by E-14. Fire units on scene did a great job containing the fire to the garage and the bedrooms above the fire. The rest of the house had minor smoke damage. There was only one minor injury. Prevention 3B took over the investigation of the fire.

Responding Units

1st Alarm

E-20 Fire Attack (RCFD)
E-14 Exposure line to the bedrooms above (BSCFD)
E-15 Out-Team (BSCFD)
E-9 Back Up line (RCFD)
E-16 RIC (BSCFD)
T-13 Ventilation, Primary search (BSCFD)
B/C 4 Tanager IC (BSCFD)
B/C 3 Division A (RCFD)

2nd alarm

E-11 Assisted inside with overhaul (RCFD)
E-10 Air Truck 9 (RCFD)
E-23 Staging officer (SMFD)
B/6 Division 2 (FCFD)
B/5 Division A, Safety (SMFD)
Support 20 Rehab
Chief 3 (Skinner) (RCFD)
Training 3 PIO (BC Pucci) (RCFD)
Prevention 3B investigator (Jamie Lee) (RCFD)